

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Stamford Volunteer Fire Company was officially incorporated and recognized by the State of Vermont on July 27, 1951; and

WHEREAS, the Company's first President, Dr. Costine, and Vice President, Howard Sherman, are credited with recognizing the need for a volunteer company and making it a reality; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Company purchased its first pieces of equipment in March of 1952. The equipment included a Hale Portable Pump, 300 feet of hose and a trailer (which could be pulled by anyone with a hitch). Later that same year, a signal system was placed in service, along with a fog nozzle, dry chemical extinguisher and additional hose. In 1953, the Company purchased "The Dodge," a pumper that carried 600 gallons of water; and

WHEREAS, until 1957, the Stamford Volunteer Fire Company's equipment was stored in Harold Haun's barn. Thanks to the donation of land by Gordon Phelps, fundraising efforts, the masonry services of Ed Henry and the help of volunteer firemen on nights and weekends, the original fire station was constructed; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, additional equipment was purchased by the town, and in 1964, Francis Hayden donated a 1,000-gallon oil tanker to the Fire Company which was converted to a fire truck; and

WHEREAS, over the next 25 years, the Stamford Volunteer Fire Company continued to grow, upgraded to modern personal protective gear and equipment, formalized firefighting training, and added to its building; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1981, the Fire Company partnered with the North Adams Ambulance Service and officially started answering calls for medical emergencies in Stamford. Today, the Company's EMS capabilities have grown to include semi-automated defibrillation and NARCAN intervention to combat opioid overdoses; and

WHEREAS, the Stamford Volunteer Fire Company retired its homemade tanker trucks in the 1980s and 1990s and replaced them with one 2,000-gallon tanker - greatly improving its water supply capabilities; and

WHEREAS, in June of 1988, the Fire Company and Stamford community suffered a tremendous loss when Chief Robert Costine died in the line of duty. Chief Costine had served as Chief for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, since incorporating in 1951, the Stamford Fire Company has had nine Fire Chiefs - Lou Manson 1951-52; Jim Morandi 1952-54; Harold Haun 1954-66; Gene Sweet 1966-72; Dave Mattimore 1972-76; Bob Costine 1976-88; Leo Ethier 1988-92; Rob Lamore 1992-97; and current its Chief, Paul Ethier 1997- current; and

WHEREAS, since July 27, 1951, the Stamford Volunteer Fire Company has served with dedication and commitment, and has represented the values and traditions that make Vermont such a great state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby issue this proclamation in recognition of

STAMFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S
65 YEARS OF SERVICE



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 19th day of September, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin
Governor